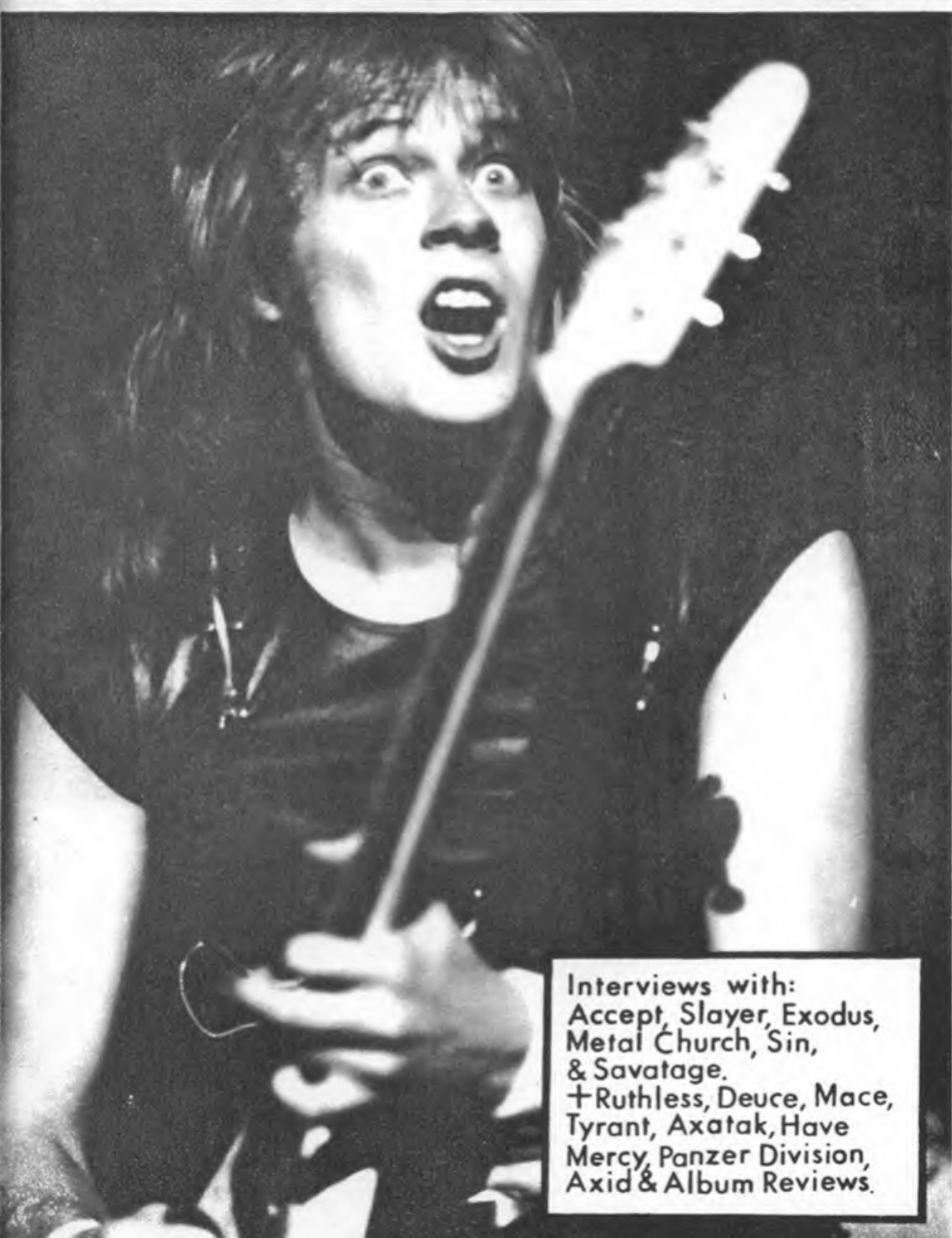


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40pgs

# ZKINNED



Interviews with:  
Accept, Slayer, Exodus,  
Metal Church, Sin,  
& Savatage.

+Ruthless, Deuce, Mace,  
Tyrant, Axatak, Have  
Mercy, Panzer Division,  
Axic & Album Reviews.

Welcome to the third issue of GRINDER. I'm sorry for the long, long delay of getting this issue out but delays are more than likely to happen. As you can see, GRINDER is now 40 pages long, thus raising the price a little. We will continue to do our best to keep improving GRINDER. Issue #4 will be our biggest issue yet. Joining the GRINDER force is Ray Dorsey(formerly of CHAOS) and Chris Nordon(formerly of METAL DISCHARGE). They both have decided to combine their mags with us, thus, creating a bigger & better mag. Issue #4 of GRINDER will be full-size pages, more professional, much more in depth, with terrific graphics, much more interviews, superb picture quality, more detailed and comprehensive publication. In addition, our distribution should increase dramatically. With all of this, remember one thing: despite more for your money & superior quality, this magazine will remain true to the underground and hardcore and we will not bow down to wimpdom. We hope to have issue #4 out in January of 1985. To give you an idea of what will be in issue #4, so far we've got interviews with Trouble, Motorhead, Possessed, Artillery, Voi Vod, Thrust, Tyrant, Mercyful Fate, Exciter, Warlock, Ded Engine, Timmy Meadows of Deuce, Panzer Division, Battle Axe, Manilla Road, Bathory and Have Mercy. We're currently working on interviews with: Sortilege, Hallows Eve and H-Bomb. Also, concert reviews of Mercyful Fate, Slayer and Exciter. We will have lots more in store for issue #4. We encourage all bands who want to be featured in GRINDER to send us bios, photos & demos. If anyone wants to contribute anything to GRINDER, feel free to write us. If anyone wants to run ads, contact us for our low rates. There are still a few issues remaining of GRINDER #1&2. Send \$1.40 (\$2 overseas) per issue. Also, all comments, suggestions, etc are welcome. Again, I'd like to welcome Ray & Chris to the GRINDER staff. We hope that you like this issue and thanks again for your support. See you in Issue #4.

#### Special Thanks to:

Mike Barnett, Ray Dorsey & CHAOS, Chris Nordon & METAL DISCHARGE, Kerry King & SLAYER, Gary Holt & EXODUS, John Kluge, DEUCE-Tom Gattis, Michael Francis, Timmy Meadows & Billy Giddings, PANZER DIVISION-Dave, Jerry, Jim & John, Rob Michael & HAVE MERCY, METAL CHURCH, Keith Collins & SAVATAGE, Mark & John of GUILLOTINE, Carey Matles & MAYHEM, Bob Muldowney & KICK\*ASS, Glenn Stock, Greg May & TYRANT, Ola Nilsson, Rik Fox, Central Station, Katon DePenna, BRAT, Ben "The Iceman" Meyer, Nasty Ronnie, Lord Byron, MEDIEVAL, Mike Sowers, Matt Salb, Mike Pycha, Jason Mantis, RUTHLESS, AXATAK, Dave Hillis & MACE, Mark Leonard, AXID, ARMORED SAINT, Bob Reich & BLACK LACE, Gene Khoury, Music Machine, Record and Tape Traders and all of those whom we forgot. Also, a big special thanks to some of the coolest guys I've ever met - MERCYFUL FATE & EXCITER.

Editor- Jim Powell

Co-Editors- Dave Wright & Kevin Fisher

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PLAYLISTS:

JIM- 1.Slayer-Necrohiliac  
2.Deuce-Wrecking Crew  
3.Mercyful Fate-Night Of the Unborn  
4.Metal Church-Merciless Onslaught  
5.Megadeth-Rattlehead  
6.Manowar-The Oath  
7.Iron Angel-Rush Of Power  
8.Bathory-Reaper  
9.Destruction-Mad Butcher  
10.Artillery-Bitch

DAVE-1.Maiden-Rime Of The Ancient Mariner  
2.Overkill-Feel The Fire  
3.Deuce-Death Sentence  
4.Mercyful Fate-Come To The Sabbath  
5.W.A.S.P.-School Daze  
6.Slayer-Final Command  
7.Deuce-Wrecking Crew  
8.Znwhite-Do or Die  
9.Malice-Air Attack  
10.Black Lace-Call Of The Wild

KEVIN-1.Megadeth-Love To Death  
2.Slayer- Chemical Warfare  
3.Metallica-Fight Fire With Fire  
4.Mercyful Fate- The Oath  
5.Deuce-Wrecking Crew  
6.Sortilege-Civilization Perdue  
7.Megadeth-Skull Beneath The Skin  
8.Slayer-Haunting The Chapel  
9.Iron Maiden-Losfer Words(Big Orra)  
10.Mercyful Fate-Come To The Sabbath



WE'LL BE  
SEEING YOU!

# ACCEPT

BY: MIKE BARNETT & JIM POWELL

After a lot of fighting, ACCEPT has finally taken America by storm. My Northwest correspondent, Mike Barnett (Mike is also the head of the METAL CHURCH fan club), had the pleasure to interview ACCEPT's lead axeman, Wolf Hoffman. The interview took place at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle, Washington on April 21, 1984.

Q- How is the American tour going?

WOLF- Fine, we are very satisfied. Everything's great. We are now on the road for two months and it's getting better every night.

Q- How has the audience response been?

WOLF- Really great, except for a few things. We are an opening act, first with Kiss and now with Saxon.

Q- How do American audiences compare with those in Europe or England?

WOLF- I would say they're pretty much the same but the people are going more crazy in the show. They are much more informed about everything, they are much more into the musicians. They know each of us and the songs.

Q- How long has ACCEPT been together?

WOLF- I've been with the band for about six years and that's when it all started. About '78 or '79.

Q- Is it hard for a German band to break worldwide?

WOLF- Definitely. It took us about four years to reach the stage where we could say "we are professionals", where we could live from what we were doing.

Q- After the "Breaker" album?

WOLF- Yes, with the "Breaker" album, I would say around there. It was '81 or something like that. We started as a very small, local band. We were all young and made our first experiences all together.

Q- How are things with CBS?

WOLF- They are giving us a good background and I think it is the right company for us. It's big enough and they are doing very good.

Q- Your style of music has changed a lot since the first album. Did this just happen or did you want to change your musical direction?

WOLF- That's hard to say. You make compositions in the way you feel in the moment and I would say we felt we should improve--and we did. Of course, you are learning from every record you are making, you are not always satisfied when you come out of the studio. You always know as soon as you are finished with the album, what to do better and that's what you do next time. So, we are improving with every album.

Q- So "Balls To the Wall" was your most satisfying album so far?

WOLF- Yes, I would say so.

Q- What is the theme behind "Balls To The Wall"?

WOLF- We had been in England, and came to that expression when somebody said our music was 'balls to the wall' excitement. We thought about that expression and felt that was exactly the right thing for us. That is exactly what we want to say with our lyrics. It means, of course, that you are standing with your balls to the wall and there is no way out for you. We've often been in that situation where we have been standing with our balls to the wall in the first years of our career. We have been f\*\*\*ked up very often from record companies and managers, so we know that and that's what we want to talk about, that people all over the world are still in that situation. You can say it politically or whatever you want.

Q- What do you think of bands like MERCYFUL FATE or METALLICA?

WOLF- Oh, I hate bands like that, to be honest, because I don't think they are making compositions of music. They are doing heavy metal and they call themselves heavy metal but I don't like that stuff. I don't like their outfit, their image or their music.

Q- What do you think of MTV?

WOLF- That's a good thing, what you've got here in America. We haven't got that in Europe at all. But sometimes I think that is too important for bands. It's not right that the success of an album or a band hangs just on a video. If there wouldn't be any MTV, bands like QUIET RIOT would have it much harder.

Q- Have you done any videos for the new album?

WOLF- Yes. We've done one with "Balls To The Wall" in England.

Q- Do you plan to do any more?

WOLF- Yes, maybe with "London Leatherboys" but we are not sure. We would like to do it but it's always a thing of financial problems and things like that. It's very expensive to do.

Q- What do you think of the underground metal system with the tape trading and things like that?

WOLF- It's great. I like that. Even the small magazines. I think it's a great system, what all these people are doing.

Q- Heavy metal seems to be really popular right now, do you think it's going to pass or do you think it will continue to be so strong?

WOLF- That's really hard to say. I hope it will continue until something new comes up.

Q- How soon do you expect to record the next album?

WOLF- Definitely in the middle of the year, July or August. But we have to finish the tour first, at least until June or July.

Q- Do you think you might be headlining the next time you come back?

WOLF- Definitely, in some cities of course. But it's hard for me to say now where we are going back. For sure we are going back to Texas.



Anyone wishing to sell & trade IRON MAIDEN merchandise and/or live tapes should write to: Dave Wright, 247 First Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21227, U.S.A. and Kevin Fisher, 1455 Pleasantville Dr., Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061, U.S.A.

Q- This year?

WOLF- Yes, we started in the East, going through Texas and all the southern countries and now on the West Coast. Then, we will go back through Canada and start again on the East Coast with Ozzy.

Q- How much does being a support band restrain your stage show?

WOLF- Quite a lot. It's quite a difference if you see us live when we are headlining.

Q- I've seen a lot of pictures of burning guitars and things like that.

WOLF- Things like that you can't do at all.

Q- Tonight, part of the time you didn't use one but your flying V's have become almost a trademark, how did you come to use them?

WOLF- I think it was "Breaker", '80 or '81 we started using them because they look nice, they sound good and we like to play on them. I love the guitar. We came up with the idea because we thought of inventing something unusual. Twin solos on the same guitar. That's quite nice looking and I think they work out well.

Q- When you headline, will you play any old songs, like off "Breaker" or the 1st LP?

WOLF- Not the first one, maybe off the second and a few of the "Breaker" album.



Q- Do you have any plans for a live album or a full length concert video?

WOLF- Yes, we would like to do it but maybe it's a bit too early. We've done quite a few live tapes but we'll first do another studio album and maybe the seventh will be a live album.

Q- You've produced the last two albums yourselves, has this helped the sound or overall feeling of the records?

WOLF- Yes. It helped us a lot in that we could work in the way we like to work. We always had producers for the first three albums which haven't been too good for us. We always felt we would do it better on our own, so we did.

Q- Some bands record almost live, do you work with a more deliberate style?

WOLF- The last one we did a bit different. In former times we all played nearly together. We even played the solos live, with everyone together. We would set up the equipment in different rooms but stand in the same room when we were recording. But this time with a few tracks we did it the other way around so first the bass and drums started and then the guitars. I think it was interesting but I'm not sure how we're going to do it next time.

Q- What was the story behind the censored version of "Son Of A Bitch"

WOLF- That's a simple story, they told us we wouldn't get airplay in England with a song called 'Son Of A Bitch'. It didn't work at all. We made different lyrics, what is called "Son Of A Bitch" was "Born To Be Whipped", which means the same. Instead of "Kiss my ass", we said "kiss my arm" and things like that. It didn't work at all because everybody likes to hear the original version more.

Q- The lyrics were directed at the record companies for what they had done to you weren't they?

WOLF- Yes. The song was about the people who fooled us around in the first 3 years.

Q- There were rumors that Udo was leaving the band. What was the situation at the time? He's back for good now, isn't he?

WOLF- Yes, you've seen that tonight, of course he's back. There was a funny rumor which started when he produced an album with RAVEN one year ago but there was nothing behind it. It was just because he made an album with them and sung on one track with them ("Born To Be Wild"). Everybody can do what he wants with his free time and he did the producing with them. But we don't care about that, he's still a member of the band.

Q- Which bands have influenced you?

WOLF- In the beginning I would say; for instance, DEEP PURPLE or things like that. Maybe the early SCORPIONS albums. Ritchie Blackmore and bands like that.

Q- Whose idea was the intro to "Fast As A Shark" from "Restless and Wild"?

WOLF- I'm not sure, I think we discussed it when we were in a bar. I think it was my idea originally, we wanted to make a joke. It should be a real contrast to the following heavy metal song.

Q- Was it sung by anybody in the band?

WOLF- No, it was just taken from a record that already existed. It's just a German folk song.

Q- How is your working relationship with SAXON?

WOLF- Medium, I would say, not too good. We are not too happy to go with them on tour. I mean they are fine guys and they are doing their thing but I think their problem is they are not big enough. We've been with KISS at first and they didn't do soundchecks, they didn't care about all that, they know what they are doing. They let us do our thing. Sometimes we've gotten from SAXON the impression that they want to disturb us a little but we don't care about that.

There you have it, Mike's interview with Wolf Hoffman. I'm looking forward to the next ACCEPT album, I hope it's back to the skull-crushing, gut wrenching, explosive metal mold as their "Restless and Wild" and "Breaker" albums but since they are on CBS Records, I doubt it will be that way.

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CENTRAL STATION - Heavy metal store, carries full selection of LP's, books, shirts, pins, etc. Write to: Central Station Heavy Metal Shop, 4., Princes Bridge Station, Flinders St., Melbourne, 3000, Australia

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METAL MILITIA - Italian metal fanzine. Write to: Stefano Gardin, Piazza Filattiera 12, 00139 Roma, Italy

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DENIM & LEATHER - "America's Loudest Magazine". Write to: Denim & Leather magazine, 9073 Matthew Ave., NE, Seattle, Washington 98115 USA

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METAL DISCHARGE - Metal fanzine, formerly called "Metal Attack", for more info write to: Chris Nordon, 90 Chapmans Ave., Warwick, Rhode Island 02886 USA

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METALLIC OVERKILL - Power metal fanzine. Write to: Reuben Jacobson, 229 Edgewood Avenue, San Francisco, California 94117

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WANTED - Any live albums and cassettes of SWEET and The Sensational Alex Harvey Band. Will buy or trade. Contact: Glenn Stock, 218 Widford St., Broadmeadows 3047, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

# AXATAK

BY: JIM POWELL

AXATAK hail from Australia, the band members are John "Jet" McCulloch (guitar and vocals), Steve "Red" Linzew (guitar and vocals), Amy Zouman (bass and vocals) and Don Hailes (drums and vocals). When people hear that a band is from Australia, they usually think that the band will sound like AC/DC, like Heaven and Rose Tattoo do. That is not the case at all with AXATAK. They have a sound which is nowhere near that of AC/DC. AXATAK is a straight ahead metal band. They are accepted by all metal fans, especially the hardcore bangers. AXATAK's history dates back to mid-1981 when Andy and Steve left the band that they were both in at the time, to form their own. They knew what they wanted and after a period of time auditioning drummers, they found what they were looking for in Don Hailes. The hunt for the right guitarist lasted a long time. After a few unsuitable temporary members, the formula was finally completed in mid-'83 when "Jet" McCulloch joined the ranks. The unit was finally completed and the band was more of a family when they started gigging at last in late '83. Since then, they've been constantly playing live dates and have built up a good following in Melbourne, Australia. There they are known for their hard driving music and their outrageously energetic performances. The band will hopefully be issuing their debut album within the next couple of months. The LP will be entitled "Shock Rock". The track listing is as follows: Side A- "Rockin' Tonight", "Lipstick and Leather", "The Slayer", "Girl", "Beware The Night". Side B- "Feel The Music", "Get Me High", "Shock Rock", "Medusa" and "Warrior. It'll be issued on a small Aussie label. Be on the lookout for AXATAK.

Also, be on the prowl for Ion Drive and No Class, two more hot metallic Australian bands. We might have a possible feature on Ion Drive in our next issue so beware.





# SLAYER

BY: JIM POWELL

Straight from the crypts of Hell, through barren lands of rotting corpses and decaying flesh comes an almighty force known to us as SLAYER. Actually, SLAYER comes from Los Angeles, California (Now, who said that there are only posers and wimps in L.A.??). SLAYER first assaulted the world when they appeared on Metal Massacre 3 with a song called "Aggressive Perfector". Since then, they have released one of the most dangerous vinyl L.P.'s to date. Their debut L.P., "Show No Mercy" quickly put them around the top of the power metal scene. Just recently, SLAYER released another excellent piece of vinyl called "Haunting The Chapel". It's a 3-track E.P. that shows SLAYER heavier than they have ever been (see the review of it in this issue). I discussed SLAYER's past, present and future with guitarist Kerry King. Here's what he said:

Q - How and when was SLAYER formed?

Kerry - About 2½ years ago, I met Jeff (Jeff Hanneman-guitarist) at an audition and we raged all over the entire band we tried out for. We just happened to meet Dave (Dave Lombardo-drums) and I knew Tom (Tom Araya-bass) from a previous band we were in.

Q - Who are your influences? What bands do you like today?

Kerry - I don't consider anybody my influences because if you listen to one guitarist too long, I think that you'll sound more like him instead of developing your own style. Some bands I like are: Possessed, Exodus, Venom, Mercyful Fate, Suicidal Tendencies, Voivod, etc.

Q - What was the story behind you working with Megadeth? Was it just a favor or did you have intentions to join the band?

Kerry - At first it was just a favor but it didn't hurt SLAYER any. We're sure getting a hell of a lot of press from it. It was really nothing. I only played 5 gigs with them.

Q - How well has the "Show No Mercy" LP been selling?

Kerry - It's sold in excess of 40,000 (I think).

Q - Why did you leave Steve Craig's management?

Kerry - Steve left us and there isn't much to it. One day, he just decided to give up, I don't know why. He never gave us our fan mail so if anyone wrote to Platinum Management, we never saw it. There's a new address on the "Haunting The Chapel" E.P.

Q - When will "Hell Awaits" be released?

Kerry - February or March of 1985.

Q - What songs will be on it? How heavy will it be?

Kerry - "Hell Awaits", "Praise of Death", "At Dawn They Sleep", "Kill Again", "Hardening Of The Arteries", "Necrophilac" and probably a song called "Crypts Of Eternity". Heavy is a personal opinion. I think they all rage but I like songs that thrash. The overall album is twice as fast as "Show No Mercy".

Q - The "Haunting The Chapel" E.P. has a much rawer, heavier sound than your first LP, will "Hell Awaits" be basically the same sound?

Kerry - More than likely, we've already done the basic tracks and the only thing holding it up is our tour.

Q - You mentioned something about releasing a live E.P. that will be recorded on Halloween. What will it be called? What will be on it? When will it be out?

Kerry - "Live Undead" will probably be out by Christmas, consisting of probably "Evil Has No Boundaries", "The Anti-Christ", and "Die By the Sword".

Q - What's SLAYER's live shows like?

Kerry - If I told you, what would be the use of going to see us?

Q - I know that you've been asked this question many times before but what is your image? Are you really into the Satanic things or is it just basically a gimmick?

Kerry - I don't think anything we do is just a "gimmick". That's a very incriminating word. I wouldn't say we are practicing Satanists but I wouldn't say that we are a bunch of unacknowledged jerks about it either.

Q - As far as leads go, how do you and Jeff go about deciding who does what lead?

Kerry- Usually, if one of us has a rhythm track we want to play lead to, the next on will more than likely be given to the other guitarist.

Q - What is the outlook on your tour? Who will be touring with you?

Kerry- Trouble will be opening up the West Coast, other than that, there are no set bands. I think we're co-headlining with Mercyful Fate in Europe.

Q - What do you think about the power metal scene of today?

Kerry- There's a lot of hot bands popping out of nowhere but there are a lot of poser bands just trying it because it's the hot thing.

Q - Is there anything else that we can expect from SLAYER in the future?

Kerry- Faster, more thrash, heavier and a hell of a lot of banging!

Q - Do you have any last comments that you'd like to say to the readers of GRINDER?

Kerry- Prepare to thrash or be thrashed upon!!!



# DEUCE

DEUCE- Beltsville Teen Center, Beltsville, Maryland 9/28/84

BY: JIM POWELL

As the lights dimmed, the crowd started to become restless and the chanting for DEUCE started. The curtains opened. In the midst of all the dry ice, I could see silhouettes of the four metallic warriors bonded in chains, spikes and leather. Then suddenly, in a burst of fury, DEUCE exploded into a destructive version of "One Nation Underground". Frontman Tom Gattis (singer/guitarist), immediately took control of the crowd as he quickly got the head-banging started. All of the wimps that were still there after the first song were completely blown into oblivion as DEUCE did "Metal For Muthas". After doing "Barn Burner", they went into a thrashing version of Metallica's "Seek and Destroy". The crowd continued to bang even harder while being assaulted with "Shock Treatment". Michael Francis, while doing deadly bass riffs, was stalking around the stage getting the bangers all rowdied up as they viciously attacked the crowd with "Death Sentence." "Crack the Mirror" was next, which was followed by a new killer called "Wrecking Crew". Then they did the classic Angel Witch track, "Angel Witch". Timmy Meadows was in fine form as he followed that with an excellent guitar solo. DEUCE followed it with killer versions of "I'm Saved", "Bad Boys" and "Angels From the Dust". After Billy Giddings' amazing drum solo, the thrashing continued as they did "Metal Paranoia". During "Hell Fighter", I could barely hear Tom's vocals due to the crowd's overwhelming screaming fo the lyrics. Sweat was flying as the crowd banged in a frenzied madness when DEUCE attacked with "Downfall of Satan". Without warning, they unleashed a deadly version of "Young Rowdies", thus ending their set. With a wrath of fury, DEUCE came out and did an encore of "Seduced". The show then came to an end and the destruction was over. The only hard part was trying to get out of the rubble which was once the building they played in. The thing that I'm wondering is how much longer will the record companies go on overlooking DEUCE? If record companies had any brains at all, they would have signed DEUCE long ago. If anyone is interested in contacting DEUCE, write to: DEUCE, 9423 Mayflower Court, Laurel, Maryland 20707, USA . Buttons and demos are available. Send \$7.00 for their demo and \$1.00 for a DEUCE button.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT SALB



12  
DEUCE PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUDY CHILDS

- DEUCE

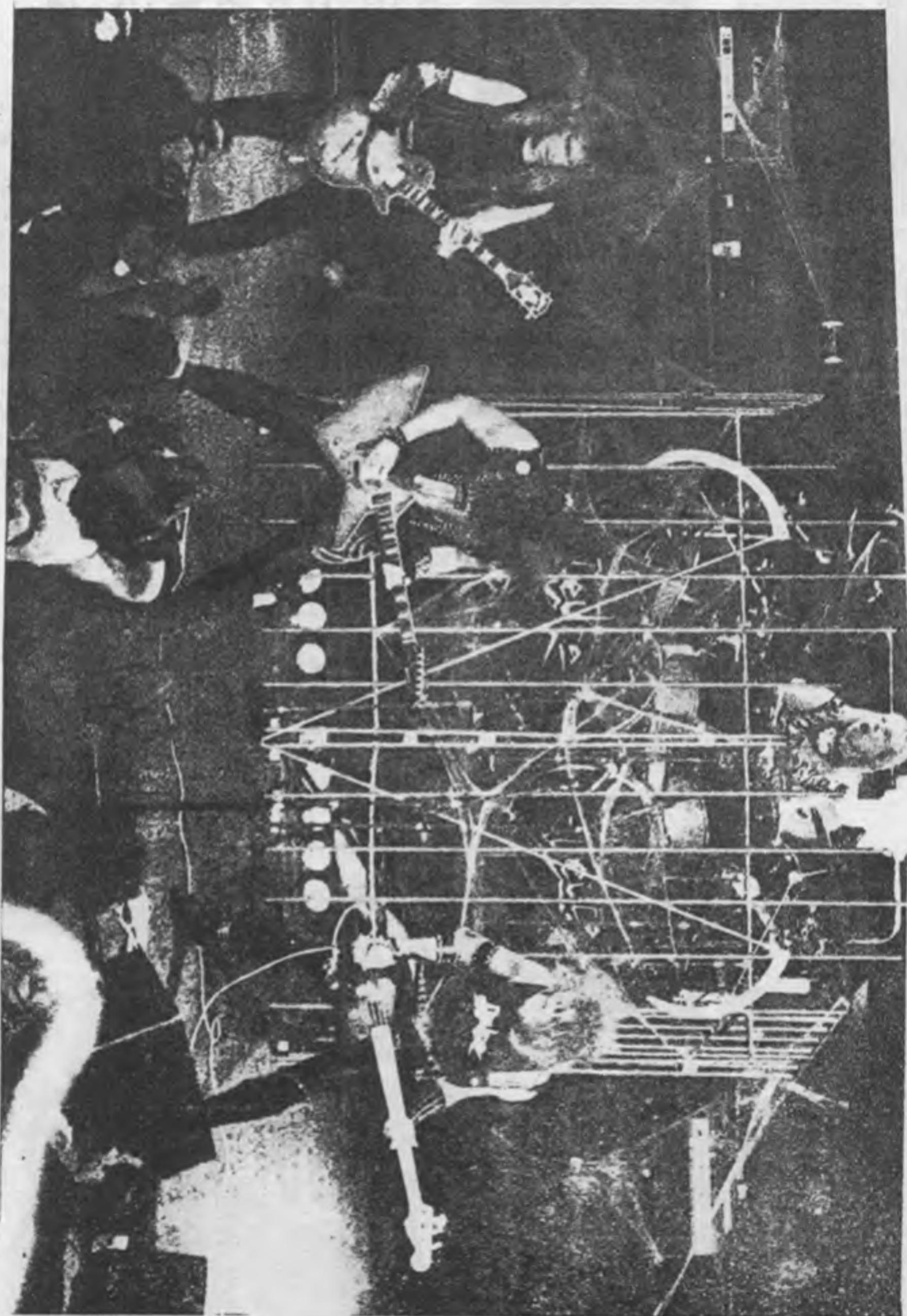


PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDRA L. JONES

# HAVE MERCY

BY: JIM POWELL

HAVE MERCY is a fairly new metal outfit from Baltimore, Maryland. Their line-up consists of Nick Ellingson(Guitar Gladiator of Lightning), John "The Nort" Knoerlein(Drum Bashing Double Bass Barbarian), Rob Michael(Bass Pounding 4-string Death), Tom Maxwell(Guitar Grinding Speed Demon) and Lee Dayton(Vocals, Shrieks of Morbid Terror). HAVE MERCY was formed by John Knoerlein and Rob Michael in October of 1983. The two went through countless guitarists before settling with Tom and Nick in April of 84. The line-up was complete in August of '84 with the addition of Lee Dayton on lead vocals. Just recently, HAVE MERCY put out their first demo entitled, "Pleading For Mercy". The demo is a complete killer, the stand out songs are "Show Me Your Rage", "Haunted House" and "Slayer" but all six songs deliver the metal. If you like it hard, fast and heavy, you've got it. HAVE MERCY is a hot act to see live. I recently saw them attack a crowd with their thrashing originals. They also did killer cover versions of songs by such bands as Anthrax, Exciter, Slayer, and Metallica. HAVE MERCY have very quickly started a following which will surely grow in no time. The potential is definitely here. This is the third metal band in Maryland today that is good(Deuce and Panzer Division are the other two). We may possibly be seeing Maryland's metal scene getting larger. To contact HAVE MERCY or to buy their demo (\$5.00 each; make payable to: Rob Michael), Write to: HAVE MERCY, c/o Rob Michael, 1310 Murgatroyd Rd., Allston, Maryland 21047.

## PLEADING FOR MERCY



# SAVATAGE

BY: JIM POWELL



A very large metal scene has exploded into the Florida area with such bands as the over the top NASTY SAVAGE, MANTAS and HALLOWS EVE (from Atlanta, GA). Florida even has a metal fanzine called "Guillotine". Yes, Florida is really getting into the metal scene. The band that I feel is responsible for this metal outrage in Florida has got to be "SAVATAGE". It all started when they were under the name of AVATAR, they released a 3-track 7 inch single entitled "City Beneath The Surface", which is already a classic metal song. Changing their name to SAVATAGE, they released their debut album entitled "Sirens". The album can only be described as awesome. Recently, SAVATAGE has just signed a major deal with Atlantic Records. Their next vinyl release probably won't be until late winter or early spring of 1985. I recently had the chance to interview SAVATAGE. The members in the band are Jon Oliva(vocals), Criss Oliva(guitars), Keith Collins(bass) and Steve "Dr. Killdrums" Walcholz(drums).

Q- When was SAVATAGE formed and who formed the band?

JON- In November of 1977, Criss and I formed AVATAR. Basically, the idea was the same as it is now, heavy rock. I guess the way SAVATAGE is now would have to root to a Halloween party we did in 1981.

Q-Have there been any line-up changes?

JON- We've had many in the past but since Keith has joined us, the problem no longer exists.

Q-Is it true that you changed your name from AVATAR to SAVATAGE because of the Avatar in Los Angeles?

JON- No, there must be 1000 Avatars.

Q- How well did your "City Beneath The Surface" single sell?

KEITH- The "City..." E.P. did very well! The only problem is that Par Records won't re-release it. We get lots of mail asking for it.

Q- How has the "Sirens" album been doing?

KEITH- I don't think "Sirens" has reached its full potential yet. It has sold very well, considering the way it was marketed.

Q-Was "Sirens" released on blue vinyl?

KEITH- Yes, but it's very rare!!! Only 500 were made!

Q- Have you just mostly been playing in the Florida area?

CRISS- Yeah, mostly. We don't have any cash to get the hell out of here.

Q-What bands have you played with?

KEITH- Zebra, Shooting Star, Billy Thorpe, Nasty Savage, countless members of local bands. There are not many good metal shows in Florida.

Q- What do you think of NASTY SAVAGE?

JON- They're nasty and really good friends.

STEVE- NASTY SAVAGE is a very heavy, raw, pedal to the metal band! I like them and their music. We've played with them a few times and their show always go over really good.

KEITH- They're great! They really understand what metal is all about.

CRISS- Quite savage and they are really good friends.

Q- Who are you influences?

CRISS- Blackmore, Van Halen, and Rhoads.

STEVE- A lot of people ask me this question and to tell you the absolute truth, I never really had any major influences. I do claim that Bam-Bam and Captain Caveman did influence me to the size of sticks I use and my savage attack.

Q- Who writes the songs in SAVATAGE?

JON- I do. No, really, I work with Criss on most of the stuff. Lately, Steve and Keith have been coming up with a lot of great ideas. We all share a part in the arrangements. It's really good, we're all on the same wavelength or something like that.

Q- Will you continue to write your music in the same vein as the "City..." E.P. and the "Sirens" LP? Or will your sound change?

JON- As people grow, people change. You can't help it. I feel we are changing. Our music is still very heavy but I feel we are becoming better songwriters.

Q- Is Par Records still going to release that 4-song EP that was once in the making?

KEITH- We are really not sure what is going on with Par. We hope they don't.

Q- When is your next album going to be ready? Any specific title for it? What songs will be on it?

JON- It's scheduled for March '85. We start recording in October, up in New York. We have a few ideas for a title but right now we're not sure. Some of the songs might include: "Devil In Disguise", "Warriors", "Power Of The Night", "No More Saturday Nights" and more. We'll just have to wait and see but I know it'll be a KILLER!!!

Q- What else can we expect from SAVATAGE in the future? What are the possibilities of a tour?

CRISS- More metal and of course a tour as soon as possible. There's nothing like playing in front of a crowd of screaming metalheads.

Q- Do you have any last comments?

STEVE- I would like to thank all the people who supported us from the start. Hey, we're doing this for you!

JON - This could be very treacherous!

KEITH- There are a lot of sick things out there!

CRISS- Party on!



# SAVATAGE



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# RUTHLESS'

BY: JIM POWELL

RUTHLESS is a band from L.A.. They have been together for a bit over a year. They have been playing L.A.'s local club scene and have gained a large following. The members in RUTHLESS are Ben McGee(guitars), Rollen Schroeder(guitars), Jack Black(bass), Todd Billings (drums) and Sami D. (vocals). RUTHLESS is in the process of recording their debut 5-song E.P.. It'll contain "The Fever", "Gates of Hell", "Metal Without Mercy", "Bury the Axe" and one more. If you like fast, heavy, grinding metal, buy this E.P. when it comes out. If you'd like to find out more on RUTHLESS, write to: RUTHLESS, 1311 Diamond St. #A, Anaheim, California 92801.



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BY: JIM POWELL

EXODUS has very quickly pounded their way to the top of the power metal scene. With their album, "A Lesson In Violence" waiting to be released, EXODUS will surely take the world in a rage. This San Francisco based outfit has had a very large following for the past couple of years. Due to their live tapes spreading around, their following is growing even bigger. I had the opportunity to interview guitarist Gary Holt. We discussed EXODUS' past with Kirk Hammett in the band and we also talked about what was in store for metallers as far as EXODUS is concerned. Here is the interview:

Q - When was EXODUS formed and who formed the band?

Gary - EXODUS was formed around 1981 or something, I'm not quite sure. Tom Hunting and Kirk Hammett (now with Metallica) formed the band.

Q - Who were your early influences? What do you like to listen to now?

Gary - My early influences were Aerosmith, Black Sabbath and early Blue Oyster Cult. Now, I like to listen to bands like Mercyful Fate, Satan, Venom, Slayer, Metallica, etc.

Q - When will "A Lesson In Violence" be released and what songs will be on it?

Gary - The album should be out by mid-November. The songs are: "Bonded By Blood", "Exodus", "And Then There Were None", "A Lesson In Violence", "Metal Command", "Piranha", "No Love", "Deliver Us To Evil" and "Strike of the Beast".

Q - Who writes most of the music and lyrics?

Gary - Right now, I've written almost all of the music but Rick is becoming a valuable contribution. Paul and I have written all of the lyrics except "And Then There Were None", which is by Tom and I.

Q - Will you be doing a tour after the album is out and if so, is there a specific band that you will tour with?

Gary - We will definitely be touring soon. With whom and when, we're not sure yet.





Q - What's a live EXODUS show like?

Gary - A live EXODUS gig is like no other. It's the biggest gathering of murderers and metal crazed freaks ever! I read how other bands think their crowd is violent but they don't know what violent is until they come to an EXODUS show!! 100% over the top!!

Q - Have you played many places outside of California?

Gary - We've never played outside of California!

Q - What's your favorite place to play?

Gary - My favorite place to play is definitely Berkley, California. The bangers there are so crazy, we risk our lives going on stage but the risk is nothing compared to the thrill of watching the thrashers kill eachother!!!

Q - Are you mad about Kirk Hammett using the guitar riff and chorus of "Die By His Hand" in the middle of Metallica's "Creeping Death"? Also, he used a riff from "Hell's Breath" and most of "Impaler" in Metallica's "Trapped Under Ice". Are you mad about this or did he write those riffs?

Gary - I'm not mad about it, they were his riffs and he has the right to use them. It's a shame though that other people may hear those riffs on Metallica's "Ride The Lightning" and not have any idea where they originated from.

Q - Did Kirk Hammett leave or did he get thrown out of EXODUS?

Gary - Kirk left on his own. We were having problems at the time so he chose to leave.

Q - What bands has EXODUS played with in the past?

Gary - We've played with Loudness, Inglow Malmsteen, Slayer, Heaven, Metallica, Raven Anthrax, Steeler and a few others.

Q - What else can we expect from EXODUS in the future?

Gary - To never cease to put out the heaviest, fastest and best metal there is and also to do some shows in the East that will rip your face off!

Q - Finally, so you have any last comments to tell the readers of GRINDER?

Gary - Just to never stop banging, thrashing and raging. Never hesitate to kill and mangle and poser wimp that gets in your way! Teach them a lesson in violence!

For EXODUS Fan Club and merchandising information, write to: Legions of Violence, P.O. Box 339, Orinda, California 94563-0339

# Panzer Division

BY: JIM POWELL

PANZER DIVISION is a Washington, D.C. based metal outfit that consists of Dave Bradley (guitars), John Tutko (drums) J.D. Feldstein (vocals) and Jim Crockett(bass). The beginnings of PANZER DIVISION go back to 1979 when Dave Bradley and John Tutko formed a band known as "Glass Anvil". The band, known for it's playing of obscure heavy metal, played some D.C. metro area clubs until 1983 when the band members decided to go their separate ways. However, Bradley and Tutko decided the only way to go was to play original material. The two stayed inactive for 1 year, concentrating on writing songs. By March 1984, after writing over 20 songs, the two decided the time was right for the completion of the ultimate metal band. The band was completed with the addition of Feldstein and Crockett, both of whom were drafted out of D.C. area bands. The name PANZER DIVISION symbolizes the band precisely. The boys, clad in battle fatigues and leather, bring across an image of power and strength much like that of the Panzer Tank. The image of power and the controversial name should be more than enough to turn peoples' heads. With the right promotional guidance, the PANZER DIVISION concept can materialize into a rewarding experience. Yet, above the image (unlike many bands), is the music. PANZER DIVISION's music is not only aimed at the power metal bangers (such as Loudness, Anthrax, Metallica, etc.) but also the middleweight metal bangers (such as Judas Priest). Thus, creating a larger and more diversified market. PANZER DIVISION achieves this through a combining of basic hard metal with catch melodic riffs, thus culminating into heavy, melodic songs. Their demo consists of three songs: "On A Full Moon", "Fast Train To Nowhere" and "Crush, Kill, Destroy". All of the songs display a great deal of talent but



the most outstanding thing about the demo is the great guitar work of Dave Bradley. He combines a style of classical guitar, mixed with metal. Some of their other killer originals include "Frustrated", "The beginning of the End", "Evil Destroys", "Headbangers", "Losers" and lots more. With the likes of PANZER DIVISION, Deuce and Have Mercy, Maryland is definately starting to get into the metal scene. PANZER DIVISION is surely a force to reckon with. If you'd like to find out more about PANZER DIVISION and/or to obtain their demo (demo-\$4.00), write to: PANZER DIVISION, 200 Exeter Court, North Linthicum, Maryland, 21090, USA.

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# TYRANT

BY: JIM POWELL

TYRANT is a four piece metal outfit based in California. Their line-up consists of Greg May (bass), Glen May (vocals), Rocky Rockwell (guitars) and Rob Ray (drums). They have been together for 2 years, playing all the clubs in the Los Angeles and Hollywood areas. Bassist Greg May states "we've played with all the L.A. bands like Motley Crue, Ratt and W.A.S.P. and blew them all off stage! We are true metal, not posers like those bands". TYRANT first appeared on Metal Massacre 3 with "The Battle of Armageddon", which destroys everything in sight. They are currently recording their debut album at Cherokee Studios (where Dokken, Motley Crue and Twisted Sister have recorded), the album will possibly be entitled "Legions Of the Dead". According to Greg May, "It'll be a completely over-the-top, Gothic, Black metal album". Be on the lookout for the TYRANT album. It will slay and kill anything in sight. To contact the band, write to: TYRANT- Masters of Metal, 5608 Persimmon Avenue, Suite 666, Temple City, California, 91780.



# METAL CHURCH

BY: JIM POWELL

The Northwest is probably better known for its lumber mills and rainfall than an abundance of successful musical acts. But this area of sawdust and wood chips has made many contributions to the metal world. Bands like CULPRIT, TKO, and the WILD DOGS blazed the way for the large number of bands springing up in the Northwest. However, the aforementioned acts or any other Northwest band look pale in comparison to the mighty METAL CHURCH, Seattle's metal Saviors. With their demos, the band has built up an extensive underground cult following and with a record deal secured, a major conquest looms on the horizon. I did the following interview with METAL CHURCH members Kurdt Vanderhoof(lead axe), Duke Erickson(bass), Craig Wells(axe), and Kirk Arrington(drums)



Q- How long has METAL CHURCH been together?

KURDT- The first METAL CHURCH was formed in 1979. The current line-up came together in April of 1983.

Q- Who formed the band?

KURDT- I did.

Q- Has there been many line-up changes?

KURDT- There were many changes in the old METAL CHURCH. I reformed the band with Duke and Craig. Dave (Dave Wayne-vocalist) joined soon after. Kirk replaced our old drummer Tom Weber when we started to write originals in May of '83.

Q- Who are your early influences?

KIRK- Mine were Neil Peart, Tommy Aldridge, and Bonzo.

DUKE- Geezer Butler and Kenny Aaronson.

CRAIG- Tony Iommi and Michael Schenker.

KURDT- Steve Jones(Sex Pistols), Joey Ramone and Michael Schenker.

Q- When did you first play live?

BAND(IN UNISON)- May 4, 1984.

Q- Is there any specific record company that is interested in you?

KIRK- Yeah, we're going to do an album with Ground Zero Records in Seattle. It'll be out within the next couple months.

Q- What bands have the current members of METAL CHURCH been in previously, before joining the Church? Were any successful?

CRAIG- Lots of bands.

KIRK- But none were successful on a large scale, although, Kurdt was in Lewd and did a single with them.

Q- What do you think of the American metal scene?

DUKE- We like METALLICA, the MENTORS and MACE but some of those clone bands are too much.

Q- What would you say to people who consider you a "black metal" band because of your name?

DUKE- Bend over.

KURDT- Listen closer.

Q- What does METAL CHURCH stand for?

KURDT- Powerful, escapism heavy metal.

METAL CHURCH has recently appeared on two compilation albums. "Northwest Metalfest" which featured the CHURCH classic "Deathwish", Metal Massacre 5 features their excellent "The Brave". When their album comes out, it'll be one of the top albums of the year. METAL CHURCH has a very, very powerful.. sound which is fronted by.the great vocal



ability of Dave Wayne. In the meantime, I strongly suggest that you try to obtain their demos, which are circulating around in the underground metal tape trading scene. They now have a fan club and merchandise available. Write to: METAL CHURCH BANGER BATTALIONS, 610 Hill Road, Aberdeen, Washington 98520. In the meantime, BOW TO THE CHURCH!!!

# BRAT

BY: JIM POWELL

BRAT was formed by Bruce Batten(guitar) and Russ Hammock(drums). The band has gone through some personnel changes: their current line-up also includes John Urban(bass), Rae Rosario(vocals) and Chris Ajhar(guitar). In 1982, BRAT signed a 1 year contract with Par Records, thus, releasing a single which did well in the Tampa Bay area. The band is currently mixing nine songs for an album release. Future plans include a filming of a video and also a tour which will take them from Florida through the midwest to California. They have tentative dates with KEEL out in California. BRAT has a four song demo available, the two stand outs are "Black Widow" and "The Nightstalker". BRAT is not a power metal band, they are basically mainstream heavy metal. about as heavy as LAAZ ROCKIT, not that they sound like LAAZ ROCKIT though. BRAT has a pretty much original sound. We may be hearing alot about BRAT in the future. In the meantime, if you wish to contact BRAT and find out how to get their demo, write to: BRAT, 9314 117th Avenue North, Largo, Florida 33543 USA

# MACE

BY: KEVIN FISHER

MACE is a 3-piece metal band hailing from Everett, Washington. The members are Dave Hillis(guitar), Kirk Verhey(bass), and Vence Larose(drums & lead vocals). The band started about 2½ years ago when Kirk and Vence joined up with Dave. MACE hasn't had many line-up changes with the exception of vocalists. However, they never really found the right vocalist to fill the spot. They kept Vence on vocals so they could have a sound that was similar to punk, which they wanted. MACE influences are basically punk-metal bands such as GBH, Discharge, and Suicidal Tendencies. MACE has gained a large underground following due to the release of their demo entitled "Metal Lust". The demo combines speed and power with punk-type vocals to give them the sound they desired. They have also appeared on two compilation albums, "Metal Massacre V" and "Northwest Metalfest". Mainly, MACE has been playing in the Washington area. They have opened for such metal bands as Slayer, Anthrax, Metal Church and Raven. In the near future, MACE will be adding a second guitarist and will hopefully be playing lots more gigs. Watch out for this band.

For more info on MACE and how to obtain their demo, write to: MACE, c/o Dave Hillis, 712 91st Fl. S.E. Everett, Washington 98204 USA.



BY: JIM POWELL

SIN is a California based outfit that is fronted by ex-Steeler bassist, Rik Fox. I had the opportunity to do an interview with Rik. We discussed Rik's past with other bands and we also discussed SIN and what the plans for the band are. Here's how it went:

Q- Who are the current members of SIN?

RIK- Mark Anthony(drums), Frank Starr(lead vocals), Richie Martel(lead guitar), J.J. Kristi(lead guitar, vocals) and myself (bass, vocals). Frank and J.J. are formerly of "Alien".

Q- What went wrong with the old line-up? (Carl, Vince, Art, Howard)

RIK- EXTREME personality, ego and musical clashing. Vince tried to take control of the band and together they tried to force me out of the band. So, I fired them. (They were lazy, undeserving louts anyway).

Q- Have you been in any other bands besides "Steeler" and "Sin"?

RIK- No, this is my first band!! Of course I've played in other bands!!!! Upon arrival in L.A., I played with (and came up with the name for) W.A.S.P. They took my ideas and then asked me to leave. (Blackie played rhythm guitar then). I also played with a group of ego pot heads called "Warlord". Thank God it was temporary!

Q- How long have you been playing Bass?

RIK- Semi-professionally since 1975, professionally since 1977. "Virgin" (New Jersey) in 1976, which evolved into "Lust"(also N.J.) which evolved into "Sin" in 1977 and played up and down the Jersey coast cover circuit and all over N.Y. State.

Q- Who are your influences? What bands do you like to listen to now?

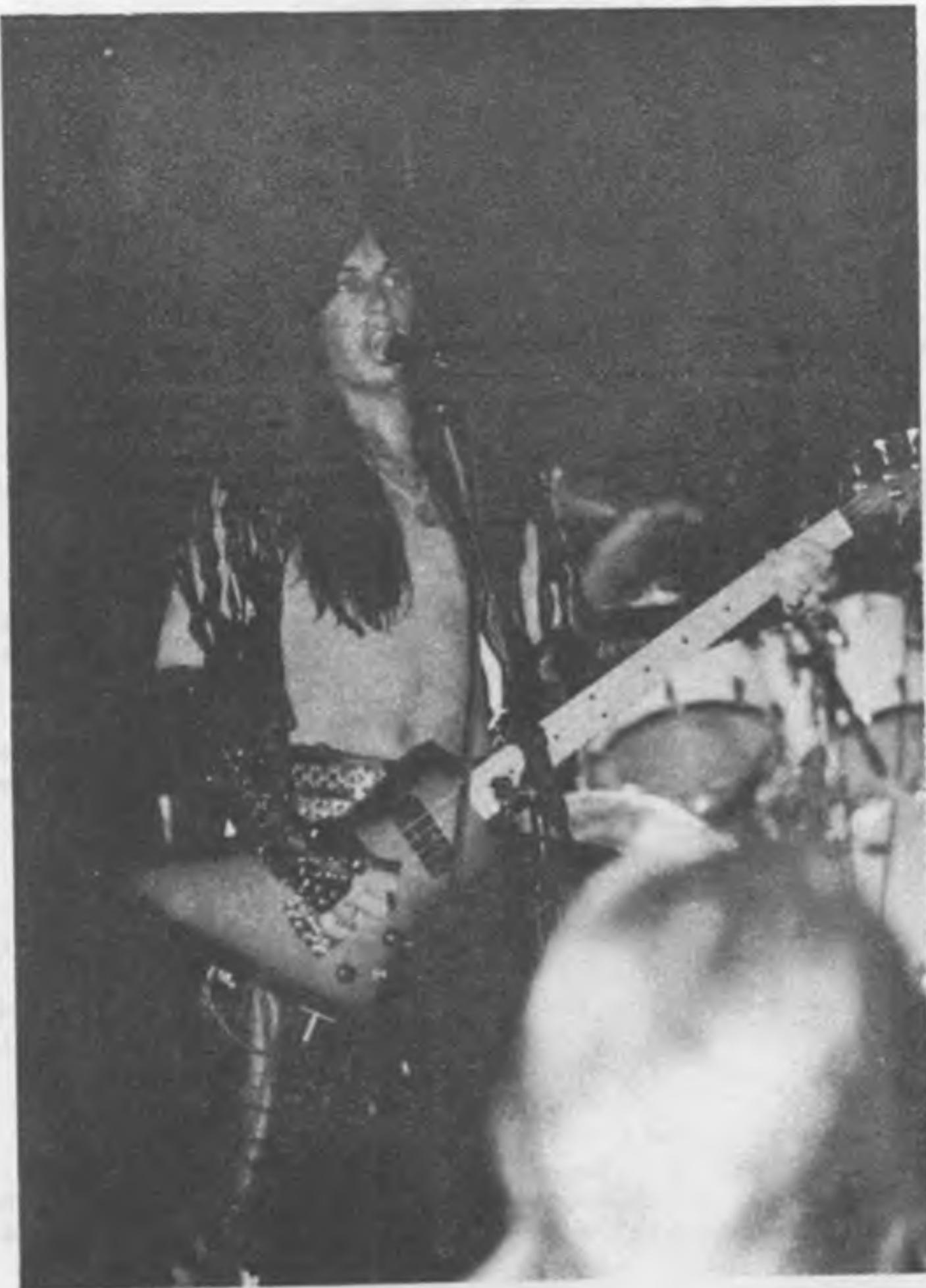
RIK- Steppenwolf, Alice Cooper, Uriah Heep, The Babys, Angel, Starz, Kiss. were my influences. Bands I listen to now are Judas Priest, Motley Crue (my friends), Ratt(also friends), Black and Blue(also friends), Talas (Billy Sheehan is a friend and influence). I also listen to UFO, Accept, Ozzy, Twisted Sister(also friends), old Roxy Music, old King Crimson(with Greg Lake), old ELP, Deep Purple, some old Sweet, Van Halen, Teaze(from Canada), Scorpions, Mott the Hoople, Kix, Dokken(also friends).

Q- What was it like playing with YNGWIE MALMSTEEN?

RIK- Truly an "experience". When it comes to knowledge, age knows no boundaries and I learned much from Yngwie. But he tends to be a bit eccentric and very set in his ways. I personally feel that he is starting to fall prey to his own fame and is really starting to believe in the HYPE that's printed about him. That could spell a personality downfall, as his musical prowess soars upwards.

Q- What went wrong with STEELER? Was it because of Ron Keel?

RIK- STEELER is now known as "KEEL", that should pretty much sum it up. Basically, it was always that way. Songs and ideas were not given much regard unless they were Ron's. So, Steeler, in any form has always been



Ron's and all the musicians who passed through those (hallowed?) ranks were merely temporary roles, although I did get to record the album with STEELER. Yngwie and Ron argued often and Yngwie came to hate Ron within weeks of being in STEELER.

Q- How well did the STEELER album sell?

RIK- From what I was told, the album sold about 20,000 units within about 3 months. That is supposed to be very good and I'm still waiting for an accounting of my share of the royalties and was manipulated out of most of my songwriting rights. I wrote the opening theme "Abduction" but Yngwie played the guitars on it and got 70%, Mark got 20% for calling it "Abduction" and I got 10% for writing the piece. Makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

Q- How did the SIN picture disc "On the Run" sell?

RIK- I'm in the process of having the accounting of the record being assessed, as I have personally not seen or received any monies from Azra Records. As we speak, the management we will be signing with (Management) will be looking in on the matter and STEELER also.

Q- Do you have a contract with Azra Records?

RIK- All contracts have been amended (broken legally) with Azra and the label is no longer a suitable label for my purposes. Azra is also being sued by Martial Law, Greg Leon's project, for monies not received.

Q- Will you be releasing anything on vinyl soon?

RIK- Our plans include a possible 4-song E.P. before the year's end. Tentative songs might be a re-released version of "On The Run", as well as "I'm No Angel" and "Don't Say Goodbye" (from the Alien album), two more commercial metal tunes, and either the "Road Warrior-ish" "Vendetta" or the "Def Leppard-ish" "You've Got Trouble(I've Got You!)". I'd like both personally.

Q- What can we expect from SIN in the future?

RIK- We're going to be the biggest thing since sliced bread! I've got believe it or not, concepts that have never been used yet in rock and roll! Imagine that! New concepts not yet seen by the world of rock. That's a tall order only SIN can fill. It's a closely guarded secret and all I can tell you is that it deals with the "Ancient Future". Quite a paradox of terms. So, you'll have to wait and see!!

Q- Any last comments to tell the readers of GRINDER?

RIK- I'd like to thank all those who've been instrumental in helping to align my direction, you won't be forgotten. And those who've screwed me over will be crushed under the iron wheels of my MACHINE OF RETRIBUTION. Being successful does not come without its shortcomings and believe me, there are a lot of jealous individuals who hate me. It's only natural that since success is coming my way, that I've picked up a few enemies along the way and now that I have the opportunity to return the fire, I don't even need to bother wasting my time with cutting down the jealous children who have nothing better to do than to waste everyone's time cutting me down to make themselves look good. I'm very grateful to all the faithful fans and friends who've contributed to making me successful. God Bless you all and thank you. I wouldn't be here without you. Here's to many more years of METAL and headbangin' together Rocking as ONE! KEEP THE FAITH! EAT METAL FOR BREAKFAST!!

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STEEL ASSASSIN - Demo for sale, 8 tracks of killer metal. Send \$5.00 to:  
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POWERTHRASH - Death metal fanzine. Write to: Gene Khoury, 112 Mountainside Terrace, Clifton, New Jersey 07013 USA

# AXID

BY: JIM POWELL

AXID is a band from the south of Sweden. The band formed about three years ago and after various experiments, they have now settled as a 5-piece line-up, which is Michael Ivory(guitar), Tommy Vane(bass), Max Wing(drums), Jon Diamond(throat) and Remmy Brandt(guitar). AXID has a very good reputation in Sweden and they have played a lot of gigs, mostly in the south of Sweden. On stage, they are a very tight outfit and use a lot of effects to give their audience a memorable show. Off stage, they come across as a band with serious ambition and a good professional set up. They have a four song demo available which consists of "White Lies", "Love Games", "Stand In Light" and "Exciter". The demo is very good heavy metal with a very original sound. I'm sure that AXID will make a name for themselves in a matter of time. If you'd like to find out more on AXID and also to obtain their demo, write to: Ola Nilsson. Lasvagen 8, 223 67 Lund. Sweden



# ALBUM REVIEWS

CHATEAUX - Fire Power

BY: KEVIN FISHER



English band CHATEAUX has released their second devastating metal album called, "FirePower". This album contains a combination of power and speed with a melodic twist and a lot of distortion. Krys Mason, who is the lead singer and bassist, has a clean mid-range voice and delivers a solid bass rhythm. Guitarist Tim Broughton has all the speed talent and raw guitar sound to deliver some gut-wrenching metal and drummer Chris Dadson has the talent to back it up. The album itself opens with a song called "Rock and Roll Thunder", which is for all head banging muthas. Other standout tracks include "Hero", another fast track, "V8 Crash", and "Run In The Night", which is similar to "Chained And Desparate" from their first album. This album may not be for hardcore power metal freaks but it's well worth the money to all you serious headbangers.

BLACK LACE - Unlaced

BY: JIM POWELL



In issue #1 of GRINDER, I did a brief article about BLACK LACE. Since then, they have released their debut album on Mausoleum Records, entitled "Unlaced". The album opens with an intro called "March Of The Black Witch", which tears into the furious "Call of the Wild", one of the heaviest songs on the album. Frontman, or should I say frontwoman, Maryann Scandiffio has one of the best female voices in heavy metal today. One of the great things about this album (besides Maryann Scandiffio's looks), is the guitar playing of Carl Fragnito, he plays some really hot licks. The standout songs on the album are "On The Attack", "Devil In Disguise" and "Nightmares". The rest of the album is just as good, though. If you're in the mood for some serious, straight-ahead, heavy metal, then I strongly suggest you get this album but if you're into power metal and power metal only, then I don't think this album will appeal to you. All in all, I think that this is a really good album and I think that BLACK LACE may make a name for themselves in the near future.



SLAYER's "Show No Mercy" LP. is one of the best metal albums around. "Haunting The Chapel" picks up where "Show No Mercy" left off. This blistering three track E.P. is even an improvement over "Show No Mercy", if that's possible. As soon as it started to play, I could immediately notice the better production, the sound is much heavier than it is on "Show No Mercy". Another thing I noticed is that Dave Lombardo is now a double bass drummer, which makes them sound even heavier. Side one has "Chemical Warfare", it runs over six minutes long. This song has several rhythm changes in it. Side two starts with "Captor of Sin", this shows SLAYER in one of their most thrashing styles. "Haunting the Chapel" ends this great E.P. in a very banging manner.

Tom Araya's growling raw vocals along with Jeff Hanneman and Kerry King's grinding riffs and searing leads make this a killer. All three songs are great, no flaws at all. Get it, it's a must for all metal fans.



SORTILEGE - Metamorphose



SORTILEGE hailing from Paris, France, has created a masterpiece of French heavy metal. It's called "Metamorphose" and is a follow up to their five-track E.P. which was on Rave On Records. "Metamorphose" is on Senator Records. It has a typical French melodic sound with a touch of power added in. Similar in sound to fellow thrashers H-BOMB. SORTILEGE knows how to deliver the goods to be a band with a style of their own. The album itself opens with a frantic song called "D'Ailleurs", which is followed by "Majeste", which slows things down a bit. Stand out tracks are "Legende", "Metamorphose" and "Civilization Perdue" which opens with a screaming guitar riff from Stephane Dumont, then rips into the song itself. The lyrics of the album are in French but who cares, the music kills. This is a definite must for anyone into metal.



## Hellhammer

HELLHAMMER, the death metal band from Switzerland, has released their debut E.P. called, "Apocalyptic Raids". What a joke, it's the worst thing I've ever heard. Bad production, terrible vocals and lack of talent sums it all up. Guitarist/vocalist Tom Warrior(a.k.a.Satanic Slaughter), lacks the ability to play guitar and sing. His vocals make Cronos sound great(Cronos is god-J.P.) and there are no leads on the songs, a complete downfall. The good point is that Bruce Day (a.k.a. Denial Fiend), the drummer and bassist Martin Ain (a.k.a.Slayed Necros), have the potential to be better if they had a better singer and guitarist. The E.P. opens with "The Third of the Storms", which is a complete washover and the second song "Massacra" has a little more hope but sorry to say it's bad too. Side two features "Triumph Of Death"

which is very slow and features plenty of vomiting screams. The last song, "Horus Aggressor" is the best track, as it picks up speed. HELLHAMMER has split up but now Tom Warrior and Martin Ain have reformed a new band called Celtic Frost, let's hope it's an improvement from HELLHAMMER. If you're looking for talent, there's none to be found here. But if you're into distorted, punk, thrash, death metal and you're looking for something to thrash too, then you'll like this. All maximum hardcore death metallers will like this.



Priests and nuns beware, MERCYFUL FATE has returned with their third release, "Don't Break The Oath" and what a release it is. This is undoubtedly my favorite L.P. of the year, so far. This LP is a new breakthrough in heavy metal. Now I'm sure you've all heard about the image that FATE project, concerning their lyrics and stage show, so I'll skip all of that and concentrate on what really matters - the music. First off, "D.B.T.O." has great production, which makes FATE sound better than they ever did before. There is so much talent involved on this album, it's unbelievable. The main focus is the twin axe attack of Hank Shermann and Michael Denner. They are both phenomenal guitarists. They come up with some great complicated guitar riffs, along with great searing leads on songs such as "Night Of The Unborn", "Nightmare" and "A Dangerous Meeting". They let

loose on solos that you wouldn't believe. The rhythm section of Timi Hanson (bass) and Kim Ruzz(drums) is very outstanding also. King Diamond uses countless numbers of ranges of his voice on this LP from his very deep, evil voice to his ear-piercing, high-pitch vocals. There is no way to pick out my favorite standout tracks because all of them are standouts. "The Oath" and "Come To The Sabbath" are two more great epics to add to the long list of FATE classics. The other killer songs are "Desecration of Souls" and 'Gypsy'. All metal fans should definitely have this. It's truly a classic in all of metal. Satanic or not, this album is great and that is final.



Finally, studio material from MEGADETH. After hearing how great they are on some live tapes which are floating around everywhere, I couldn't wait to hear them with a good recording. This demo is so great, I don't know how to describe it but I'll try. The tapes start off "Last Rites", which is a classical intro. It then tears right into "Love To Death", it's the fastest song on the tape. "The Mechanix" is next, which is basically pretty similar to the version that's on the Metallica—"No Life 'Til Leather" demo. "Skull Beneath the Skin" ends this massacre in a real grinding manner. Dave Mustaine's raw vocals and guitar playing has definitely put MEGADETH on top of the Power Metal scene. I highly recommend this tape to all whiplash inducers. Obtain at any costs, trades or deeds.

## METALLICA - Ride The Lightning

BY: KEVIN FISHER

Ultimate thrash, destruction and total blur sums it up. METALLICA's send Lp "Ride The Lightning" delivers a lot of speed and power, like their first Lp does. "Fight Fire With Fire" is the heaviest song on the album, gaining speeds of 100 mph, rips your house apart and is a total blurr. The second song, "Ride The Lightning", is another cut that rips your face from your head and throws you against the wall. "Trapped Under Ice" is a pretty killer song, the only problem with it is that it is exactly like Exodus' "Impaler" with a couple riffs from "Hells Breath". "Creeping Death" has some riffs from Exodus' "Die By His Hand". Other standouts are "For Whom The Bell Tolls" and "Fade To Black", which shows the more melodic and musical part of METALLICA. The last song on the album "Call Of The Ktulu", originally called "When Hell Freezes Over", delivers nine minutes

of straight forward power with a little melodic touch. So, for all you metal maniacs who don't have this album, buy it or die!

## MANOWAR - Sign of The Hammer

BY: JIM POWELL

MANOWAR has returned with their fourth album, it's their first on 10 Records. The album shows the band in top form. One of the hottest songs is "The Oath", which is one of MANOWAR's fastest and heaviest songs. It also contains a great lead by Ross the Boss. "Mountains" and "Guyana (Cult of the Damned)" are great songs also, leaning towards the slower, more melodic side of MANOWAR. Joey DeMaio does another bass solo on this album. This one is called "Thunderpick", which contains some very fast bass picking. The other two standout cuts are "Sign of the Hammer" and "Thor(The Power Head)". The only disappointments on this album are "All Men Play On Ten" and "Animals", which shows them in a more commercial style. These songs sound a little different than the usual MANOWAR style. All in all, this is a pretty hot album, if you like MANOWAR, then this is surely worth getting.



ing out, so watch for them.

TOKYO BLADE , from the British invasion has released their second album. The album is called "Night Of The Blade" and it has a simular sound that their first album has but with a much better production. The album is released on Combat Records in the States and it's on Power Station Records in Europe. The album has a melodic but powerful sound in which guitarists John Wiggins and Andy Boulton contribute to. The LP opens with a song called "Someone To Love" and then "Night Of The Blade" follows and is one of the best songs on the album. Other standouts are "Rock Me To The Limit" and "Unleash The Beast", which are the heavier songs on the album. TOKYO BLADE definitely knows how to rock but their potential seems to lean towards a more commercial sound, which could possibly happen. Let's hope not though because this act is hot. This is definitely worth checking out, so watch for them.

# W.A.S.P.



So, the band with the most fans that have never heard them, has an album out. It seems this band was a hit based on the fact that they looked like they were good. Do they play like they look? Well, kind of. Not as heavy and raw as you might expect, this album is good commercial metal. Don't get me wrong. Blackie's vocals are very rough and the album has a heavy edge. I like the album very much, my favorite songs being "Hellion", "Tormentor" and "School Daze". The only disturbing thing is that the songs are not as heavy as they were on the demo (that's a major label for ya!). Not for Power Metalers, this is a good album for anyone liking top-notch commercial metal.

Some other albums that we highly recommend are:

VOI VOD - "WAR AND PAIN"  
BLASPHEME - "BLASPHEME"  
DEMON EYES - "RITES OF CHAOS"  
OMEN - "BATTLE CRY"

H-BOMB - "ATTAQUE"  
JAG PANZER - "AMPLE DESTRUCTION"  
BATHROY - "BATHROY"  
FATES WARNING - "NIGHT ON BROCKEN"

Be on the lookout for:

EXODUS - "A Lesson In Violence" and SLAYER - "Hell Awaits"  
These two albums will KILL!!!!



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